WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
-2 JUL 1953
A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1952

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1952. The report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in the Circular No. 2/53 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Borough: 20,427 Acres.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 5,952.

BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births			
Legitimate	64	56	120
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	68	58	126
Still Births			
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	0	2	2

BIRTH RATES:

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population): 21.2 (compared with 15.3 for England and Wales).

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated Home population: 0.34 (compared with 0.35) for England and Wales).

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) births): 15.6 (compared with 22.6 for England and Wales).

DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths from all causes	35	30	65

Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated Home Population): 10.9 (compared with 11.3 for England and Wales).

Infant Mortality:

(1) Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	1	4

(2) Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	0	2

Infant Death Rates (per 1,000 Live Births):—

(a) All causes, under one year: 31.7 (compared with 27.6 for England and Wales).

(b) Enteritis and Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age: 0 (compared with 1.1 for England and Wales).

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS:—

Year:	1949	1950	1951	1952
Estimated Population ...	5865	6048	5980	5952
Live Birth Rate	22.4	18.0	23.1	21.2
Still Birth Rate	0.34	0.33	0.17	0.34
Death Rate	11.3	11.9	14.2	10.9
Infant Mortality Rate ...	30.3	45.9	28.9	31.7

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR:

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant growth of the Stomach	2	1	3
Malignant growth of the Lung ...	1	0	1
Malignant growth of the Breast ...	0	1	1
Other malignant growths ...	5	2	7
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	4	4	8
Coronary Heart Disease, Angina ...	7	4	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Diseases	2	4	6
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	3	5
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	0	1
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	0	1

There were four fatal accidents during the year, two of which were road fatalities.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following diseases were notified:

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Measles	3	5	8
2.	Whooping Cough	13	8	21
3.	Pneumonia	2	0	2
4.	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1
5.	Tuberculosis: Pulmonary ...	4	6	10
6.	Tuberculosis: Non-Pulmonary	2	0	2

There was an increase in the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified, and a decrease in the number of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis cases. Tuberculosis is now, in the majority of cases, being diagnosed at an early stage of the disease but I would stress the great importance of **early** X-ray examination of the chest in all suspicious cases.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The following consultant clinics are held at the Welshpool Memorial Hospital each month:—

1. Tuberculosis.—Dr. G. O. Thomas; 1st and 3rd Mondays; 10 a.m.

2. Ear, Throat and Nose. — Mr. R. Barraclough, F.R.C.S.; 2nd and 4th Mondays; 2.0 p.m.

3. Medical.—Dr. Phillip Evans, M.D.; 1st and 3rd Wednesdays; 2 p.m.

4. Surgical.—Mr. J. A. Spalding; 4th Friday; 10.0 a.m.

5. Gynaecological.—Mr. Owen Jones; every 4th Tuesday; 3.0 p.m.

6. Paediatrics (Children).—Dr. Gerald Roberts; 4th Wednesday; 2.0 p.m.

7. Child Welfare (under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health).

8. Orthopaedic.—2nd and 4th Mondays, 10 a.m.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken in any case under this section during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This is still being carried out voluntarily by the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. There is, however, a shortage of male drivers and attendants, and new volunteers for this good work are needed.

1. WATER.

Town Supply.

(a) Rainfall figures for the year:—

		Inches			Inches
January	...	4.26	July	...	1.15
February	...	1.33	August	...	4.21
March	...	1.79	September	...	2.20
April	...	1.54	October	...	5.16
May	...	2.44	November	...	3.25
June	...	2.99	December	...	3.31
			Total for year	...	33.63

This compared with 41.29 inches in 1951 and 37.80 in 1950.

(b) Minimum supply to reservoirs was 66,000 gallons recorded in September, 1952. Minimum waste line was 1,500 gallons per hour. Average consumption was 105,000 gallons per day.

(c) 4 private houses in the town area, 3 houses at Pool Quay and one farm were connected to the town's supply.

(d) The connections to the town supply are as follows:—1,482 houses; 190 shops, etc.; 4 farms and 2 small holdings.

GUILSFIELD AND GROES.

Once again the supply to these two villages had to be supplemented by stream water. This difficulty will now be overcome by the supply of water from the Trinity Well source. The minimum yield of the Groes springs during the year was 1,838 gallons per day; this figure was recorded on 1st August, 1952. During the year services were provided for supplying 3 houses and one drinking trough.

TREWERN WATER SUPPLY.

During the year connections were made to five private houses, this making a total of 26 private properties now being supplied and 22 Council Houses. A connection was made to Buttington Brickworks, making a total of 3 other properties having a supply.

Castle Caereinion Water Supply.

Water is being supplied to 12 Council houses and 6 private properties. The supply has proved satisfactory and there has been no shortage of water.

Trinity Well Water Scheme.

The laying of the original scheme has almost been completed. The whole of the mains on the Borfa Green Housing Estate (76 houses) have been laid and are connected to the Trinity Well Scheme. Most of the services have been laid and nearly half the Estate is now occupied and consuming water from this source. The service reservoir at Hithercroft has been connected to the Trinity Well Scheme and this supplies 40 houses in the town. Pumping to this reservoir has therefore been eliminated. The present consumption from Trinity Well is 12,000 gallons per day, but many more properties have yet to be connected. Schemes for extending this supply to Trelydan and Groespluan are under consideration.

Long Mountain Water Scheme.

A scheme has been prepared for supplying water to properties on the top of Long Mountain which will be a considerable amenity to this district.

Criggion Water Scheme.

A scheme for the extension of the water mains from Trewern to Criggion Radio Station has been approved and work will be commenced early in 1953.

SAMPLES.

During the year 148 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis, the results being as follows:—

Town Supply:	26 Class 1	Trinity Well:	11 Class 1
	1 Class 2		1 Class 2
	1 Class 3		1 Class 3
	3 Class 4		8 Class 4
Castle Caer.:	23 Class 1	Private	2 Class 1
	1 Class 2		1 Class 2
	4 Class 3		2 Class 4
	3 Class 4		
Guilsfield:	23 Class 1	Miscellaneous:	1 Class 1
	1 Class 3		1 Class 4
	2 Class 4		
Trewern:	22 Class 1		
	2 Class 2		
	2 Class 3		
	6 Class 4		

2. FOOD

204 certificates in respect of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption were issued in 1952 as against 268 certificates in 1951.

Summary of food condemned is as follows:—

589 tins food.	57lb. Cooked Ham.
50lb. chocolate.	83lb. Pork.
30lb. sweets.	154lb. Veal.
53 tins Milk.	5½lb. Cheese.
92lb. tinned meat.	104lb. Bacon.

ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district. Four applications for registration of premises from retailers were granted making a total of 16 in the Borough.

Food Cleanliness

12 inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with the Council's Bye-laws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

3. SEWERAGE.

Town.

One private house and thirty-five Council houses at Borfa Green have been connected to the sewer during the year. Discharge of the sewage is into the River Severn. The proposals for preparing a scheme for the construction of a sewage disposal plant is under consideration by the Council and a report on the subject is being prepared by a firm of Consulting Engineers.

Guilsfield.

This village is sewered on the combined system to a new disposal plant which is maintained in good order and gives little trouble.

Three connections to the sewer made during the year.

Trewern.

The Council Estate is sewered on the separate system, the sewage being treated at a new Sewage Disposal plant which is maintained in good order and gives little trouble.

One new connection was made to the system during the year.

Castle Caereinion.

The village is sewered on the combined system to an unsatisfactory Disposal plant. A scheme is being prepared for the construction of an entirely new plant on a new site.

Pool Quay.

The disposal plant for this village is maintained in good order and gives no trouble.

4. DRAINAGE.

All drains laid for new properties, other than Council houses were tested by the Department.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

8 Informal Notices were served during the year requiring attention to defective W.C.'s. All were complied with, together with two carried over from 1951.

124 blocked drains were dealt with without the serving of any notices.

One notice was served relating to dangerous building. This has been carried over to 1953. The one similar notice served in 1951 and carried over was complied with.

6. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The total number of factories on the Register is 43. During the year 16 inspections were made. There were no prosecutions during the year.

7. DISINFESTATION.

Following outbreaks of infectious disease two houses were disinfested. In addition 4 houses were disinfested after death from Cancer or Tuberculosis.

8. VERMINOUS PREMISES

4 houses suspected of being in a verminous condition were disinfested.

9. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The arrangements for dealing with Rodent destruction were continued and the results were as follows:

4 warehouses in the town were inspected and action taken with good results. The refuse tip was treated on 4 occasions, the average kill being 400 per treatment. The town sewers have been treated on one occasion, there being 30 poison "takes."

3 school canteens were treated in the Borough which resulted in the premises being cleared.

The total number of baits laid in the Borough was 1,483.

Poison baits taken were 1,193.

105 private houses in the Borough were treated.

The Salvage Shed in the Smithfield was treated on 2 occasions.:

10. HOUSE REFUSE

Weekly refuse collections take place from all houses in the town, all villages in the Borough and all houses en route.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on waste land conveniently situate half-a-mile from the town centre.

11. SALVAGE

A total of 22 tons of waste paper was sold amounting in value to £121.

Sales of scrap iron amounted in value to £31.

12. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provision of the Shops Act were complied with and no court action was found necessary.

13. HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

By local authority	47
By private enterprise	5

HOUSES IN COURSE OF CONSTUCTION.

By local authority	39
By private enterprise	1

Number of houses classified as unfit for human habitation	222

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	270

Total number of condemned houses which are still occupied 58

I would like to comment on the excellent progress being made to provide houses, a total of 52 having been completed during the year. Progress should now be made to remove the unhealthy cottages which were the subject of confirmed Clearance Orders before the war. No further re-letting should be allowed and the buildings demolished as quickly as possible. I would also like to stress the need for bungalows for aged people which will have the effect of providing accommodation for some tenants at present living in condemned houses.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their valuable assistance and support. I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. A. Lodge, for the section of this report dealing with Water Supply, Housing, etc., and thank him and the Town Clerk, Mr. J. Ben Davies, for their help and co-operation at all times.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. R. B. MATHIAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

"County Times,"
Printers,
Welshpool.